

Serial No. NOT YET ASSIGNED
Prelim. Amdt. dated September 24, 2003
Before a first Office action on the merits

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment is provided before receipt of any substantive Office action on the merits of this case.

In the specification, paragraph [0001] has been amended to properly claim the benefit of prior filed applications as required under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Specifically, paragraph [0001] states “This application is a continuation patent application of U.S. Application No. 10/243,704, filed September 14, 2002, currently pending and entitled to the benefit of Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/322,417 filed September 15, 2001.”

Additionally, in the specification, paragraphs [0018], [0019], [0020], [0043], [0079], [0080], [0081], [0082], [0083], [0085], [0086], [0087], [0089], [0090], [0091], [0092], [0094], [0095], [0096], [0097], [0098], [0099], [0102], [0103], [0112], [0115], [0120], [0121], [0126], [0127], [0128], [0129], [0130], [0131], and [0132] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

Furthermore, in the specification, paragraphs [0023] and [0034] have been deleted. No new matter has been entered.

Moreover, the abstract starting on page 48 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been entered.

In the claims, claims 1 through 7 have been cancelled and claims 8 through 24 are new.

In the drawings, the attached five (5) replacement sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1, 2, 9, 10, 17, 18, 41, and 42. Specifically, Sheet one, which includes Figures 1 and 2, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1 and 2. In figure 1, reference numeral 2 has been changed to 18 and previously misplaced reference number 2 has been added. In figure 2,


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reference numeral 2 has been changed to 18 and previously omitted element numerals 2 and 5 have been added. Sheet two, which includes Figures 9, 10, and 11, replaces the original sheet including Figures 9, 10, and 11. In figure 9, reference numeral 2 has been changed to 18 and previously omitted element numerals 2 and 5 have been added. In figure 10, reference numeral 2 has been changed to 4. Sheet three, which includes Figures 16 and 17, replaces the original sheet including Figures 16 and 17. In figure 16, reference numeral 16d has been changed to 16f, reference numeral 16f has been changed to 16e, and reference numeral 4 has been changed to 15. Sheet four, which includes Figures 18 and 19, replaces the original sheet including Figures 18 and 19. In figure 18, reference numeral 14 has been changed to 15 and reference numerals, 14 (misplaced), 17, and 19 have been added. Sheet five, which includes Figures 41 and 42, replaces the original sheet including Figures 41 and 42. In figure 41, reference numeral 2 has been changed to 5. In figure 42, reference numeral 5 and its associated lead line have been deleted and reference numeral 2 has been changed to 5.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the foregoing amendments into this case prior to the initial examination of this application.

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Respectfully Submitted:


Dennis A. DeBoo
Telephone (916) 449-3983
Registration No.: 42,471

Attachement